

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02
/106 W

-----150700Z 082644 /12

R 150115Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3174
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1119

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNSC, SF, WA
SUBJ: DECLARATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA; FIVE-POWER DEMARCHE
ON NAMIBIA

1. HAVING HEARD THAT SOME AF'S MAY BE SPREADING THE RUMOR
THAT THE FIVE WEO MEMBERS OF THE SC "HAVE REJECTED" THE LATEST
AFRICAN TEXT, THE FIVE PURSUED THE IDEA OF A MEETING WITH
THE THREE AF COUNCIL MEMBERS TO ELICIT THE REASONS FOR THE
AF GROUP'S REFUSAL TO CONSIDER OUR PACKAGE OF SEVEN AMENDMENTS.
A MEETING SET UP FOR 12 APRIL ABORTED DUE TO NON-APPEARANCE
OF MAURITIUS BUT, WITH FRG AMB. VON WECHMAR TAKING THE LEAD,
TOOK PLACE 14 APRIL.

2. VON WECHMAR BEGAN BY DESCRIBING TO MAURITIUS, BENIN AND
LIBYA THE FIVE-POWER DEMARCHE IN CAPETOWN ON NAMIBIA. HE SAID
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THAT THE CONVERSATION WITH THE PM HAD CONCLUDED BY VORSTER'S
DECLARING THE SAG'S WILLINGNESS TO SIT DOWN WITH THE FIVE.
THE FIVE BELIEVE THE DEMARCHE HAS BEEN SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED
AT LEAST TO THIS EXTENT. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT DATE THE TALKS
WILL COMMENCE BUT IT WILL BE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. VON
WECHMAR CONTINUED BY SAYING WE BELIEVE A DECLARATION ON
SOUTHERN AFRICA ADOPTED BY THE SC WOULD HELP THE FIVE IN OUR

DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAG, AND REITERATED OUR DESIRE TO PRESS FORWARD WITH THE NEGOTIATION OF THE DECLARATION.

3. MAURITIUS AMB. RAMPHUL APPRECIATED THE DESCRIPTION OF THE CAPETOWN DEMARCHE. THE AF GROUP HAD FELT LEFT OUT AND WAS CONCERNED. HE ASKED WHETHER THE FIVE-POWER "CONTACT GROUP" WOULD BE DISCUSSING APARTHEID AND RHODESIA AS WELL AS NAMIBIA, AND WHETHER IT WOULD BE COMPOSED AT THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE LEVEL. AMB. RICHARD REPLIED THAT RHODESIA IS BEING DEALT WITH SEPARATELY AND THAT WE WOULD NOT CONTEMPLATE DISCUSSING APARTHEID AT THIS STATE. AS AMB. VON WECHMAR NOTED, WE WILL BE FOCUSING ON NAMIBIA WHERE THE EFFORT TO HALT ESTABLISHMENT OF A TURNHALLE CONSTITUTION GOVERNMENT IS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

4. TURNING TO THE DECLARATION, RAMPHUL REITERATED THE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES HE HAS EXPERIENCED WITHIN THE AFRICAN GROUP WHERE SOME REMAIN OPPOSED TO ANY DECLARATION. THE GROUP HAD NOT EVEN TRIED TO DISCUSS THE SEVEN WESTERN AMENDMENTS, THE SHEER VOLUME OF WHICH, HE SAID, THE AF GROUP FOUND VERY UNSETTLING. (COMMENT: AMB. MBOYA OF BENIN SUBSEQUENTLY SAID, CONTRA-DICTORILY, THAT THE THREE AF SC MEMBERS COULD NOT GO BACK TO THE AF GROUP WITH THE SEVEN AMENDMENTS BECAUSE THESE HAD ALREADY BEEN CONSIDERED AND REJECTED BY THE GROUP. END COMMENT.) RAMPHUL SAID HIS MANDATE IS TO RECEIVE NO AMENDMENTS. HE GAVE AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SUBSTANTIAL DIFFICULTIES OUR AMENDMENTS CREATE OUR EFFORT TO REVISE AFRICAN PARAGRAPH 14 CONCERNING "THE NEED FOR INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF SUCH OPPRESSION AND FOR THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS RECOGNIZED BY THE OAU...".
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IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE FOR THE AF GROUP TO DELETE REFERENCE TO THE OAU (ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT DISPUTE THE UK'S PARTICULAR PROBLEM OF NEEDING TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS WITH MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE).

5. CONTINUING, RAMPHUL SAID QUITE PLAINLY THAT THERE IS MUCH CONCERN AMONGST AFRICAN MISSIONS THAT THEIR AGREEMENT TO THE DECLARATION WOULD BE USED IN THE FUTURE AS A RESTRAINT AGAINST AFRICAN FREEDOM OF ACTION IN THE SC AND THE GA. THE DECLARATION COULD BE THROWN IN THEIR FACE, JUST AS HAS SC RESOLUTION 242 ON MIDDLE EAST MATTERS.

6. AT THIS POINT AMB. RICHARD EXPLAINED THE NEGOTIATING DIFFICULTY FOR THE FIVE WEO'S THAT IS OCCASIONED BY THE IN-EQUALITY RESULTING FROM THE FACT THAT THE THREE AF COUNCIL MEMBERS CANNOT NEGOTIATE ON THEIR OWN BUT MUST, APPARENTLY, GO BACK TO THE AFRICAN GROUP ON ALL DECLARATION ISSUES. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS A GOOD CHANCE OF OUR REACHING AGREEMENT IF WE WERE NEGOTIATING WITH MAURITIUS, BENIN AND LIBYA,

WHILE THE LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS WAS VERY SLIM IF WE WERE IN FACT NEGOTIATING WITH THE FORTY-ODD MEMBERS OF THE AF GROUP. RAMPHUL EXPLAINED THAT THE AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE SC HAVE ALWAYS REPRESENTED BOTH THEMSELVES AND THE AFRICAN GROUP AS A WHOLE; PARTICULARLY ON AN AFRICAN-WIDE ISSUE SUCH AS THE DECLARATION, THEY HAVE HAD ALWAYS TO FORMULATE A POSITION COMMON TO THE AF GROUP EVEN BEFORE THE THREE WENT BACK TO THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS FOR INSTRUCTIONS. HE DESCRIBED THIS PATTERN AS BEING ORDAINED BY THE OAU SUMMIT AND OF LONG-STANDING. RAMPHUL AMPLIFIED BY SAYING THAT WHENEVER A NEW AF ISSUE IS TAKEN UP BY THE SC, AND AD HOC "AFRICAN STRATEGY GROUP" IS ESTABLISHED. SUCH A GROUP IS SET UP AT THE INITIATIVE OF WHOEVER IS THE CURRENT MONTH'S CHAIRMAN OF THE AF GROUP AND CONSISTS OF HIMSELF, THE THREE AF MEMBERS OF THE SC AT THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL; THE RELEVANT LIBERATION MOVEMENTS; AND THE THREE CHAIRMEN OF THE APARTHEID COMMITTEE, THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA AND THE COMMITTEE OF 24.

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WHEN THE STRATEGY GROUP REACHES CONCLUSIONS IT REFERS THEM TO THE WHOLE OF THE AF GROUP, AND, THEREAFTER, TO THE WHOLE OF THE NON-ALIGNED. AMB. LEPRETTE OBSERVED THAT THE AF'S AND THE WEO'S ON THE COUNCIL BEHAVE QUITE DIFFERENTLY IN THIS REGARD SINCE THE FIVE WEO MEMBERS ARE RESPONSIBLE TO NO ONE BUT THEIR OWN GOVERNMENTS, DO NOT PURPORT TO REPRESENT THE OPINION OF THE ENTIRETY OF THE WEO GROUP AT THE UN, AND DO NOT CONSULT WITH THAT GROUP. SPEAKING AS A NEWCOMER HE SAID HE THOUGHT THAT THE AFRICAN REQUIREMENT FOR CONSULTATION WITH THE WHOLE OF THEIR GROUP WAS A DEPARTURE FROM THE IDEA OF A SECURITY COUNCIL READY AND ABLE TO ACT ON SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL ISSUES.

7. AMB. VON WECHMAR SAID THAT THE FIVE WEO'S AND THE THREE AF'S SHOULD TRY TO SIT DOWN AGAIN AND TO WORK OUT POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO THE SEVEN AMENDMENTS. HE PROPOSED, AND IT WAS AGREED, THAT THIS WILL TAKE PLACE ON APRIL 20 AT 10:30 AM.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770131-0173
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From: USUN NEW YORK
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2788514
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DECLARATION ON SOUTHERN AFRICA; FIVE-POWER DEMARCHE ON NAMIBIA
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA, US, UK, FR, GE, CA, UNSC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/92ebcba3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009